



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 17, 2006

**FACT SHEET**

**MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES SMOKING BAN AT  
CITY BEACHES, PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND  
MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES**

*Implementation of Smoking Ban Begins August 17, 2006*

**Background:**

On Tuesday, July 11, 2006, the San Diego City Council approved an ordinance to ban smoking at all public beaches, parks, open space areas and the City's municipal golf courses. On July 18, 2006, the Mayor signed the ordinance into law, with the ban taking effect today, August 17, 2006.

**Reasons for the Smoking Ban:**

- Prevent non-smokers from coming in contact with second-hand smoke.
- Help keep beaches and parks clean. Cigarette butts and packages have become a steady stream of litter throughout the City beach and park system.
- Help keep rivers, bays and oceans clean. Left untouched, cigarette and cigar litter are eventually washed into the storm drains and ultimately into the rivers, bays, and ocean, where it significantly impacts ocean life and water quality.
- Smoking in public areas results in an increased chance of fire, especially in open space and canyon areas.

**Where the Smoking Ban Will be Enforced**

**The smoking ban covers all public parks, beaches, and open space, including City owned and operated golf courses, tennis centers, and swimming pools.** As examples (not an all inclusive list) the smoking ban covers:

- Balboa Park
- Ocean Beach, Mission Beach and Pacific Beach, La Jolla Shores, Mission Bay Park
- All dedicated and designated open space such as City-owned canyons and preserves
- All three municipal golf course—Torrey Pines, Balboa and Mission Bay

The ban **does not include** public rights of way or leasehold areas.  
(A leasehold is an entity that has a contract or lease with the City  
to use a specified piece of City property.)

Public rights of way in Balboa Park include Park Blvd. and the Laurel Street Bridge.  
Public rights of way at the beaches include the ocean boardwalk and alleys feeding into it.

#### **Aspects of the Ban Still To Be Implemented:**

- “Smoking Permitted” Areas will be determined and announced in November
  - As a provision of the No Smoking Ordinance, the Mayor has discretion to designate “smoking permitted” areas.
  - The City’s Park and Recreation Department has developed a process by which advisory committees and stakeholders will provide input to the Mayor regarding areas they would recommend as exemptions to the ban.
  - The Mayor will review the input and announce “smoking permitted” areas in November.
- Inclusion of the Boardwalk along Mission Beach and Pacific Beach
  - Currently, Municipal Code language does not include the oceanfront boardwalks and seawalls in Mission Beach and Pacific Beach in the definition of “public beach,” and these areas are not included in the smoking ban.
  - In September, the City Council will consider an amended ordinance that would ban smoking in those areas as well.

#### **Enforcement and Penalties:**

- “No Smoking” signs are being posted on existing poles throughout City parks and beaches. It is expected to take approximately 60 days to post all areas.
- Citations can be issued by park rangers, lifeguards, and police.
- A first offense carries with it a \$250 fine.
- Penalties for subsequent infractions can reach up to \$1,000 at the discretion of the judicial officer.

